

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the detailed Official Action and for the Notice of References Cited. In addition, Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the Drawings in the outstanding Official Action. Finally, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging consideration of Applicants' claim for foreign priority as well as receipt of a certified copy of the document upon which Applicants' claim for foreign priority is based.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MATSUSHIMA (U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0165825) in view of MORITA (U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0069205).

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 7-10, 12, 19 and 20 will have been amended. The amendments to claims 1, 7-10, 12, 19 and 20 should not be considered an indication of Applicants' acquiescence as to any of the outstanding rejection. Rather, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7-10, 12, 19 and 20 to advance prosecution and to obtain early allowance of the present application.

Applicants traverse the outstanding rejection. With regard to independent claim 1, the Examiner relied on MATSUSHIMA as teaching the claimed combination of features. In this regard, MATSUSHIMA is directed to license management for audio objects. The asserted portions of MATSUSHIMA in paragraphs [0041] and [0048] disclose performing check-in and check-out operations for an audio object between local storage 21 and an SD memory card 2. The Examiner asserts paragraph [0105] of MATSUSHIMA as teaching Applicants' claimed link information setter. However, it is submitted that (contrary to the Examiner's assertion),

paragraph [0105] of MATSUSHIMA merely indicates a pointer containing a title key index corresponding to object files.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner acknowledges that MATSUSHIMA fails to disclose at least a searcher that searches for content out of a specified search range, when the content processor reads a content, as recited in claim 1 and relies on MORITA for this teaching.

MORITA is directed to obtaining a desired file when a drive configuration has changed. The Examiner relies on paragraph [0066] and elements of Figure 5 as teaching that when the content is found by the searcher, the link information setter updates the link information for relating the recording area of the found content to the specified recording area so as to enable access to the content with the management information, as recited in claim 1. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of MATSUSHIMA and MORITA as proposed by the Examiner does not disclose the above-noted features. In fact, Applicants submit that MORITA teaches away from the claimed combination of features recited in claim 1 insofar as MORITA teaches that when a file name does not exist, a file name is changed to the drive letter of a currently-connected drive, thereby generating a new file name (*see*, for example, paragraph [0058] of MORITA). MORITA further discloses updating the file name of the music piece with a newly-generated file name (*see*, for example, the Abstract of MORITA). That is, rather than updating link information to indicate a relation between a recording area of the found content to a previously-indicated specified recording area, as specified in Applicants' claim 1, MORITA merely discloses generating a new file name for the file based on where the file is currently located. The subject matter recited in claim 1 enables the use of current management information, including a current file name to access content located in a location different from the location specified by the management content.

Applicants submit that he asserted portions of MORITA do not teach relating the recording area at which the content was found to the specified recording area at which the content was supposed to be located, as taught by the presently claimed invention. In this regard, paragraph [0015] of the Application as published indicates that, even if data recorded on a programmable recording medium according to a specified standard is moved by erroneous operation by the user and thus the data storage state becomes out of the standard, the contents can be played back. That is, data that is moved by erroneous operation by the user can be managed as if it has not been moved away from a specified position.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that MATSUSHIMA and MORITA (either alone or in any proper combination) fails to disclose or render obvious all of the elements of the claimed invention, as recited in claim 1. That is, Applicants submit that the combination of MATSUSHIMA and MORITA fails to disclose or render obvious at least that when the content is found by the searcher, the link information setter updates the link information for relating the recording area of the found content to the specified recording area so as to enable access to the content with the management information, as recited in claim 1.

Applicants submit that the method of independent claim 13 is allowable for reasons similar to those noted above with respect to independent claim 1 in addition to reasons related to its own recitations. The discussion set forth above for claim 1 is incorporated herein with respect to independent method claim 13, and thus, not repeated herein.

Moreover, independent claim 25 is submitted to be allowable for reasons similar to those noted above with respect to independent claim 1 in addition to reasons related to its own recitations, said arguments presented above being incorporated herein with respect to independent computer readable medium claim 25.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of dependent claims 2-12 and 14-24 are allowable at least because they depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 or 13, respectively, which Applicants submit have been shown to be allowable. Each of dependent claims 2-12 and 14-24 are also believed to recite further patentable subject matter. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims upon which they depend, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations.

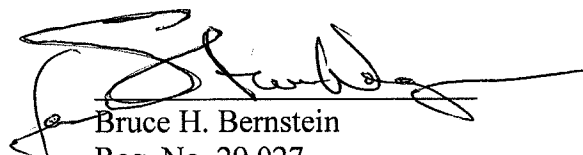
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over MATSUSHIMA and MORITA.

At least in view of the herein contained remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections, together with an indication of the allowability of all pending claims, in due course. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Such action is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate and proper.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Response or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shinji INOUE et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438